Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 37 as follows. Please cancel claims 63, 69-74, 78 and 79 without prejudice to continued prosecution. The claims and their status are shown below.

1-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting the presence or absence of Group B Streptococcus (GBS) in a biological sample from an individual, said method comprising:

performing at least one cycling step, wherein a cycling step comprises an amplifying step and a hybridizing step, wherein said amplifying step comprises contacting said sample with a pair of *pts* primers to produce an *pts* amplification product if a GBS *pts* nucleic acid molecule is present in said sample, wherein said pair of *pts* primers comprises a first *pts* primer and a second *pts* primer, wherein said first *pts* primer consists of ~~is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises~~ the sequence 5'- TGA GAA GGC AGT AGA AAG CTT AG -3' (SEQ ID NO:1) and [[or]] wherein said second *pts* primer consists of ~~is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises~~ the sequence 5'- TGC ATG TAT GGG TTA TCT TCC -'3 (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein said hybridizing step comprises contacting said sample with a pair of *pts* probes, wherein said pair of *pts* probes comprises a first pts probe and a second *pts* probe, wherein said first pts probe consists of ~~is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises~~ the sequence 5'- CAA ATT AAA GAG ACT ATT CGT GCA A -3' (SEQ ID NO:3) and [[or]] wherein said second pts probe consists of ~~is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises~~ the sequence 5'- CAA GTA AAT GCA GAA ACA GG -3' (SEQ ID NO:4), wherein the members of said pair of *pts* probes hybridize to said amplification product within no more than five nucleotides of each other, wherein said first *pts* probe is labeled with a donor fluorescent moiety and wherein said second *pts* probe is labeled with a corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety; and

detecting the presence or absence of fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) between said donor fluorescent moiety of said first *pts* probe and said acceptor fluorescent moiety of said second *pts* probe,

wherein the presence of FRET is indicative of the presence of GBS in said biological sample, and wherein the absence of FRET is indicative of the absence of GBS in said biological sample.

38-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the presence of said FRET within 45 cycling steps is indicative of the presence of a GBS infection in said individual.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the presence of said FRET within 40 cycling steps is indicative of the presence of a GBS infection in said individual.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the presence of said FRET within 30 cycling steps is indicative of the presence of a GBS infection in said individual.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said cycling step is performed on a control sample.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said control sample comprises said GBS *pts* nucleic acid molecule.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said cycling step uses a pair of control primers and a pair of control probes, wherein said control primers and said control probes are other than said *pts* primers and said *pts* probes, wherein a control amplification product is produced if control template is present in said sample, wherein said control probes hybridize to said control amplification product.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the members of said pair of probes hybridize within no more than two nucleotides of each other.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the members of said pair of probes hybridize within no more than one nucleotide of each other.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said donor fluorescent moiety is fluorescein.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said detecting step comprises exciting said biological sample at a wavelength absorbed by said donor fluorescent moiety and visualizing and/or measuring the wavelength emitted by said acceptor fluorescent moiety.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said detecting comprises quantitating said FRET.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said detecting step is performed after each cycling step.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said detecting step is performed in real time.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising determining the melting temperature between one or both of said probe(s) and said amplification product, wherein said melting temperature confirms said presence or said absence of said GBS.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising preventing amplification of a contaminant nucleic acid.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said preventing comprises performing said amplifying step in the presence of uracil.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein said preventing further comprises treating said biological sample with uracil-DNA glycosylase prior to a first amplification step.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said biological sample is selected from the group consisting of anal and/or vaginal swabs.

63-79. (Canceled)